

From: Amanda Kaster
To: [Katharine MacGregor](#)
Cc: [James Cason](#)
Subject: Re: Cheney article
Date: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 8:08:01 AM

Will do.

I'll add that we're hearing general interest from MT delegation on this, they are looking into a WSA release bill for our relevant parcels - Daines introduced a FS specific WSA bill at end of last year.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2018, at 6:15 AM, Katharine MacGregor <katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

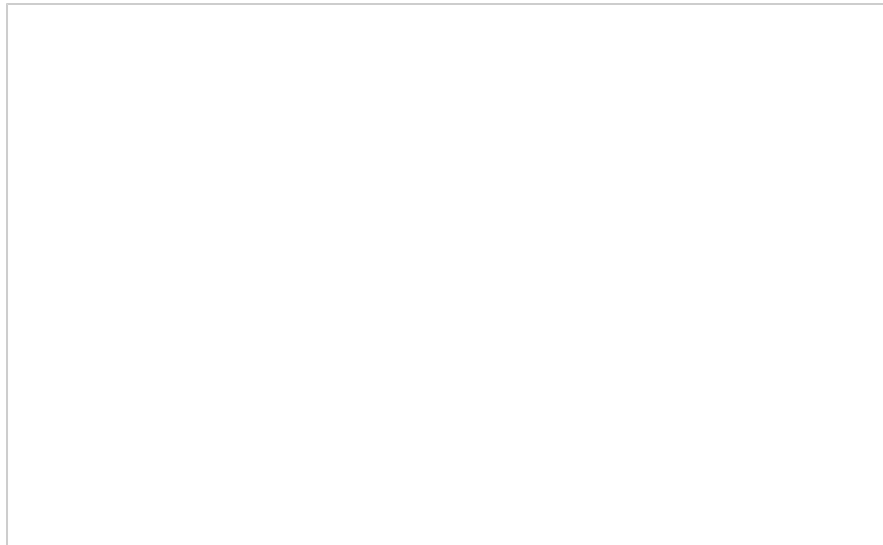
Jim - Note the Cheney article. Amanda you might want to get the skinny on what Liz is proposing.
- K

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Date: January 9, 2018 at 6:00:06 AM EST
To: <Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for
Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.



DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018 6:00 AM EST

Today's Table Of Contents

DOI In The News

- USA Today: Trump Signs Bill To Upgrade Martin Luther King's Birthplace To National Historic Park.
- Tennessean: In Nashville, President Trump Signs Executive Order On Rural Broadband Internet.
- E&E Publishing: Interior Paves Way For Contentious Alaskan Refuge Road.
- CNN: America's Stance On Elephant Trophies? It's Complicated.
- Biloxi (MS) Sun Herald: Political Corruption Helped Drive DMR Employee To Suicide, Judge Concludes.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Trump Appointee Who Quit After Probe Is Running For Congress.
- Spokane Tribe's New Casino Opens Monday Evening.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Washington Times: Judge Throws Out Case Against Bundys, Bars Retrial With Stunning Rebuke To Federal Prosecutors.

- E&E Publishing: Oil And Gas Heavyweight Joins Defense Of BLM's Methane Rollback.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: BLM Delays Gold Butte Planning Pending Possible Boundary Changes.
- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Cheney To Weigh In On Wilderness Study Areas, Creating Anxiety Among Groups Also Studying The Issue.
- Missoula Current (MT): One Year After City Council Resolution, Oil And Gas Royalties Remain Locked At 12.5%.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- U.S. Offers Drillers Nearly All Offshore Waters, But Focus Is On Eastern Gulf.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- SUPCO On The Rio Grande.
- Where To Find More Water?

Fish And Wildlife Service

- E&E Publishing: Justices Reject 4 Environmental Cases.
- Associated Press: Restoration Of Protections For Yellowstone Grizzlies Urged.
- WAMC-AM Albany (NY): EPA Delays Decision On GE's Hudson River PCB Cleanup.
- Tampa (FL) Tribune: Red Tide And Speeding Boats Blamed For Manatee Deaths Topping 500 In 2017.

National Park Service

- Daily Inter Lake (MT): Tester Requests Capitol Christmas Tree Be Used In Sperry Chalet Rebuild.
- Washington Post: Repair Work Begins On Lincoln Memorial.
- New York Times: The Reflecting Pool Isn't A Skating Rink, Washington Tells Visitors.
- New Jersey Herald: Trump Signs Bill Banning Big Rigs From Water Gap NRA In Pa..
- Los Angeles Times: People Are Petitioning Against A New Starbucks In Yosemite National Park.
- Cleveland Plain Dealer: Cuyahoga Valley National Park Breaks Ground For New Visitor Center.
- WWLP-TV Springfield (MA): Springfield Armory Now Under Care Of The National Park Service.
- Pensacola (FL) News Journal: Hurricane Nate Sand To Be Removed Starting Tuesday.

US Geological Survey

- Reuters: U.S. Rivers Getting Saltier, Drinking Water At Risk: Study.
- Associated Press: Experts Worry About Lingering Autumn

Color In Sabino Canyon.

- Additional Reading.

Opinion Pieces

- Mr. Zinke's Risky Venture Into Deep Water.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- Tennessean: In Nashville, Trump Tells Farmers "The American Dream Is Roaring Back."
- Atlanta Journal-Constitution: Trump Greeted By "Loud Cheers And A Smattering Of Boos" At Alabama-Georgia Game.
- Wall Street Journal: Mueller Indicates He May Want To Interview Trump.
- CBS: Administration Ends TPS For More Than 200,000 Salvadorans.
- Politico: Republicans, White House "Increasingly Skeptical" Of Long-Term Budget Deal.
- Washington Times: Analysts Skeptical About Trump Infrastructure Plan's Price Tag.
- Washington Post: FERC Rejects Perry Plan To Prop Up Nuclear, Coal Power In Struggling Markets.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "Republicans In Congress Are Failing America's Children."
 - "Mr. Zinke's Risky Venture Into Deep Water."
 - "Unrest Shows The Iran Nuclear Deal's Value, Not Its Danger."
 - "Europe Listens Anxiously As Germans Talk."
- Washington Post.
 - "Almost 1,000 Were Killed By Police Last Year. Here's What To Do About It."
 - "Trump Shouldn't Undercut The Iranian Protesters He Claims To Stand With."
 - "Metro To Riders: Come Back. We Love You."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "Will Trump Punish The Farm Belt?"
 - "The Russian Transparency Front."
 - "Could Oprah Out-Trump Donald?"

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

DOI In The News

Trump Signs Bill To Upgrade Martin Luther King's Birthplace To National Historic Park.

[USA Today](#) (1/8, Korte) reports that President Trump "signed a bill Monday to expand the Rev. Martin Luther King's birthplace in Atlanta into a national historical park – the first such park in Georgia." Trump signed the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act of 2017 aboard Air Force One, where he was joined by Alveda King, niece of the slain civil rights leader. The legislation was sponsored by Rep. John Lewis, "who said the change would significantly improve the way the National Park Service preserves, shares and presents King's legacy to visitors."

Also reporting are the [Washington Times](#) (1/8, Boyer), the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (1/8, Hallerman), [UPI](#) (1/9, Downs), [WXIA-TV Atlanta](#) Atlanta (1/8, King), and [KSDK-TV St. Louis](#) St. Louis (1/8, Korte).

In Nashville, President Trump Signs Executive Order On Rural Broadband Internet.

[The Tennessean](#) (1/8, Ebert, Garrison) reports that during his "whirlwind trip to Nashville," President Trump "touted his recently approved tax bill and signed an executive order aimed at promoting the expansion of broadband internet into rural areas that lack connectivity." [USA Today](#) (1/8, Ebert, Garrison) reports that the presidential memorandum directs Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "to develop a plan to support rural broadband deployment, according to a memo to the secretary from the White House."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (1/8, Miller), [Politico](#) (1/8, Evich, Cassella), [RT](#) (1/8), and [Axios](#) (1/8, Pandey).

Interior Paves Way For Contentious Alaskan Refuge Road.

[E&E Publishing](#) (1/8, Streater) reports that the Interior Department has "agreed to a proposal to exchange parcels owned by an Alaskan tribal corporation for lands within the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge that would be used to route a controversial gravel road through a wilderness area." According to the article, "the latest plan for the long-contested 11-mile road through the

refuge involves Interior orchestrating a land swap directly with King Cove Corp." The agreement, has not been finalized, but "it is expected to be formally signed by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and the president of the King Cove Corp. in Washington later this month."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (1/8, Joling) and the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (1/8, Sobel).

America's Stance On Elephant Trophies? It's Complicated.

[CNN](#) (1/8, Hoyer, Keilar) reports that President Trump, "facing the biggest decision of its kind in years, must determine whether elephant tusks and other body parts can be legally imported into the United States from Zambia and Zimbabwe." A move to change the rule last November has "led to a legal and political standoff pitting hunting advocates against animal rights groups, and it has put the Trump family's stance on big game hunting under scrutiny." In response to an inquiry about the status of the review, a spokesperson said: "President Trump and Secretary Zinke have met on this subject and there will be no new permits granted for elephant trophies for Zimbabwe or Zambia." The spokesman said, "This will remain in place until the Department of the Interior has completed a comprehensive review and the President has made a determination based upon their recommendations."

Political Corruption Helped Drive DMR Employee To Suicide, Judge Concludes.

The [Biloxi \(MS\) Sun Herald](#) (1/7, Lee) reports on Michaela Marie Hill, a former executive assistant to Department of Marine Resources Director Bill Walker, who killed herself on Aug. 18, 2012. Hill's "anguish began around January 2012, when auditors from the Inspector General's Office of the U.S. Department of Interior began reviewing how DMR was spending federal money." Bill Walker, the DMR executive director, "and other top executives at DMR" were "arrested and charged with financial crimes."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Trump Appointee Who Quit After Probe Is Running For Congress.

The [AP](#) (1/8) reports that "a former Trump administration appointee who resigned after a harsh report into a tribal loan program he oversaw announced Monday that he is running for Congress in New Mexico."

Gavin Clarkson "filed documents with the Federal Election Commission to seek the Republican nomination for a seat that represents a district along the U.S.-Mexico border." In November, the article says, "ProPublica and The Washington Post reported that Clarkson resigned from the Bureau of Indian Affairs following an inspector general report into the loan program he directed."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (1/8, López).

Spokane Tribe's New Casino Opens Monday Evening.

The [AP](#) (1/8) reports that "after more than a decade of work, the Spokane Tribe of Indians will open its new casino in a Spokane suburb on Monday night." The Spokane Tribe Casino was "first proposed in 2006, when the tribe asked the Bureau of Indian Affairs if land in Airway Heights was suitable for an off-reservation casino." It was "ultimately approved by the agency and Gov. Jay Inslee."

Bureau Of Land Management

Judge Throws Out Case Against Bundys, Bars Retrial With Stunning Rebuke To Federal Prosecutors.

The [Washington Times](#) (1/8, Richardson) reports that on Monday, US District Court Chief Judge Gloria Navarro threw out prosecutors' case against Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and his sons after what the judge described "as 'outrageous' misconduct by federal prosecutors." Navarro said, "The court finds that the universal sense of justice has been violated." The case was dismissed "with prejudice," which means prosecutors cannot try Bundy again "on felony conspiracy and firearms charges stemming from" the 2014 standoff.

The [AP](#) (1/8, Ritter) reports that Attorney General Sessions "launched an investigation into the Nevada case last month." The AP says Navarro "ended the latest case by ripping government prosecutors, led by First Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Myhre, for 'intentional abdication of ... responsibility,' 'flagrant misconduct' and 'substantial prejudice.' Navarro found 'deliberate attempts to mislead and distort the truth' and blamed FBI agents for 'reckless disregard' of requirements to turn over evidence."

The [Washington Post](#) (1/8, Berman, Sottile) says

"the dismissal was the latest defeat for government officials prosecuting Bundy and his relatives in connection with a pair of showdowns with federal authorities, first on Bundy's home turf and then, two years later, when his sons led an armed takeover of an Oregon wildlife refuge." Navarro "dismissed the case...just three weeks after she declared a mistrial in the case against Bundy. Navarro had ruled that government lawyers suppressed key evidence that would have been favorable to the defendants' case – including suppression of evidence from FBI surveillance cameras recording the Bundy family home and the presence of federal snipers around the property ahead of the standoff, among other omissions."

According to [Reuters](#) (1/8, Smith), Navarro "said more than 1,000 pages of Federal Bureau of Investigation memos were kept from the defense until well past an October deadline. The agency failed in its duty despite years of investigations and two years of trial preparation, she said." [USA Today](#) (1/8, Anglen) notes that "Cliven Bundy, his sons Ammon and Ryan Bundy, and militia member Ryan Payne were all in court. Cliven Bundy had remained in jail until the hearing. The judge ordered his immediate release."

The [Oregonian](#) (1/8, Bernstein) says the government "may appeal the dismissal," and notes that the prosecution "in recent weeks added a new assistant U.S. attorney, Elizabeth White, the chief appellate lawyer in the Nevada U.S. Attorney's Office."

Also reporting are the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (1/8, Johnson), [CNN](#) (1/8, Simon, Hassan), [NPR](#) (1/8, Siegler, Dwyer), [USA Today](#) (1/8, Anglen), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (1/8, Wiles), the [Oregonian](#) (1/8, Green), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (1/8), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (1/8, Templeton, Wilson, Peachner), the [The Federalist](#) (1/8, Henry), and [Slate](#) (1/8, Mathis-Lilley).

Oil And Gas Heavyweight Joins Defense Of BLM's Methane Rollback.

[E&E Publishing](#) (1/8) reports that on Friday, the American Petroleum Institute "moved to intervene in litigation from states and environmental groups that say the Interior Department illegally rolled back the Bureau of Land Management's methane venting and flaring rule." API's lawyers claimed "the industry will be directly and profoundly damaged if the suspended provisions of the Venting and Flaring Rule take effect because those provisions arbitrarily limit...and in many cases outright prohibit...the venting and flaring of economically

unrecoverable gas from API members' BLM-managed oil and gas leases." The case is before the US District Court for the Northern District of California that has sided with New Mexico, California, and a coalition of environmental groups against the Trump Administration's previous efforts to halt the Obama-era regulation.

Also reporting is [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (1/8, Passut).

BLM Delays Gold Butte Planning Pending Possible Boundary Changes.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (1/8, Brean) reports that the Gold Butte National Monument "will be off the table when federal land managers host an upcoming series of public meetings on their revised management plan for Southern Nevada." Bureau of Land Management officials in Las Vegas "initially said they would be discussing the national monument – and soliciting public input about it – during meetings starting Tuesday, but the agency's state office has put that planning process on hold until the Trump administration decides on possible changes to the Obama-era land designation." According to the article, "until a final decision is made on changes to Gold Butte, the BLM's state office has directed its staff in Las Vegas to hold off on any 'decisions or input regarding the management' of the almost 300,000-acre monument in northeastern Clark County."

Cheney To Weigh In On Wilderness Study Areas, Creating Anxiety Among Groups Also Studying The Issue.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (1/7, Peterson) reports that "for the past 26 years, more than 700,000 acres of Wyoming land – roughly one-third the size of Yellowstone National Park – have been hanging in limbo." Now, Rep. Liz Cheney is "crafting a bill that would make a decision on these parcels – either to release them from their de-facto wilderness status or set them aside to be wild forever." Cheney said, "We need to make sure we're all working toward closure. It's not an open-ended process. We want to avoid any efforts that are made to stall or not move forward."

One Year After City Council Resolution, Oil And Gas Royalties Remain Locked At 12.5%.

The [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (1/8, Kidston) reports that "one year ago, the Missoula City Council placed its support behind a public resolution urging the Bureau of Land Management to increase its royalty rates for oil and gas drilling on federal public lands." The effort

looked “to increase the rates from 12.5 percent – an amount that’s been in place since the 1920s.” However, “nearly a year later, not much has changed.” According to the Center for Western Priorities, “an Obama rule that sought to give the Bureau of Land Management flexibility to go above 12.5 percent is now being rescinded.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

U.S. Offers Drillers Nearly All Offshore Waters, But Focus Is On Eastern Gulf.

[Reuters](#) (1/8, Scheyder, Volcovici) reports that while the Trump Administration “has proposed opening up nearly all of America’s offshore waters to oil and gas drilling,” the energy industry is focused principally on “the eastern Gulf of Mexico.” Among the benefits of the eastern Gulf are that it is “near a sprawling network of existing platforms, pipes and ports could ease the path to new reserves, and assuage the drilling opponents near other places offered under the Interior Department’s proposed drilling plan issued last week, like California’s Pacific, the Atlantic and Arctic.” However, to move forward with new drilling in the area “would likely require the consent of the US military,” as the eastern Gulf “has been formally off-limits to drilling since 2006 due mainly to the Defense Department’s concerns oil development would interfere with extensive military testing and training exercises in the area.”

Trump’s Offshore Oil Drilling Proposal Will Create More US Jobs: Canary CEO. [Fox Business](#) (1/8) reports in continuing coverage that the Trump Administration is moving to open almost the entire US coastline to oil and gas drilling. The Interior Department released a plan that would allow the government to offer 47 leases for oil drilling on the outer continental shelf in the Pacific, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Canary CEO Dan Eberhart praised the plan, saying it will lead to the US buying less foreign oil, boosting job growth.

Maine Senators Oppose Trump’s Offshore Drilling Plans. [The Hill](#) (1/8, Samuels) reports Maine Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King are opposing the Interior’s plan to expand offshore drilling areas, citing environmental and economic concerns. In a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, the senators said, “We oppose any effort to open waters off the coast of Maine or any proximate area to offshore drilling, which could negatively affect the health of Maine’s fisheries and other coastal resources.” King also took to Twitter

saying, "So many of our key industries, from tourism and recreation to fishing, rely on healthy oceans. A single mistake could change that forever, rob our state of a key resource and permanently harm people across Maine. The risk of a catastrophe far outweighs any benefits." The [Washington Examiner](#) (1/8, Ferrechio) reports the senators also wrote, "These critical industries are dependent on Maine's pristine waters, and even a minor spill could damage irreparably the ecosystem in the Gulf of Maine, including the lobster larvae and adult lobster populations therein. ... Further, offshore seismic testing exploration has been shown in some cases to disrupt migratory patterns of fish and sea mammals."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (1/8, Miller).

Rep. Scott Taylor Of Virginia Beach Comes Out Against Offshore Drilling. The [Washington Post](#) (1/8, Portnoy) reports Rep. Scott Taylor is opposing drilling off the coast of his Virginia Beach district, saying production could interfere with military training and is opposed by coastal communities and industries in the district. Taylor said, "The reality is, in my district every locality has opposed it. ... Business and industry oppose it. The Navy has problems with it. I have to listen to my people." Taylor is viewed as one of the most vulnerable Republicans in Virginia, with the DCCC targeting the district in the upcoming midterms.

Markey: Plan Will Spur 'Huge Fight' Over Offshore Energy Drilling. The [Gloucester \(MA\) Times](#) (1/8, Lannan) reports that Massachusetts Sen. Ed Markey, who opposed the proposal, said it is "going to be a huge fight across our country."

Gaetz Opposes Drilling On Defense Concerns. In a video on [Fox Business](#) (1/8), Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz expressed opposition for an expansion of offshore drilling, saying it would devastate America's defense.

Critics Prepare For War Against Trump Drilling Plan. [E&E Publishing](#) (1/8) reports environmentalists are planning an aggressive reaction to Trump's plan to lease the offshore areas. Southern Environmental Law Center attorney Sierra Weaver said, "Today's announcement by the Trump administration willfully ignores coastal governors, communities, businesses, and elected leaders up and down the coast who've made it clear they don't want drilling off their shores." Deputy press secretary of the Sierra Club Gabby Brown said protests can be expected at the BOEM's public hearings. Brown said, "There's already a lot of energy in coastal states around making sure Interior gets the message loud and

clear that there's strong, bipartisan opposition to drilling among coastal communities."

Additional Coverage. Also reporting are the [Huffington Post](#) (1/8, Cunningham), the [Gloucester \(MA\) Times](#) (1/8, Lannan), and [Alaska Native News](#) (1/8).

Bureau Of Reclamation

SUPCO On The Rio Grande.

The [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (1/8, Paskus) reports on Monday, "attorneys for the US Bureau of Reclamation and the states of Texas, Colorado and New Mexico presented oral arguments to the US Supreme Court" on "whether the United States has the right to intervene in the longstanding interstate water dispute under the Rio Grande Compact." According to the article, "in trying to understand the water rights issues and the role the Bureau of Reclamation plays in both Texas and New Mexico, the justices grappled with whether to allow the US to intervene in the case under the terms of the compact."

Additional coverage was provided by [Courthouse News](#) (1/8, Ryan) and [KUNM-FM](#) Albuquerque, NM (1/8, Paskus).

Where To Find More Water?

The [Tracy \(CA\) Press](#) (1/8) reports that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is "seeking input into ways of providing more water to its Central Valley Project customers south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta." According to a news release issued Friday, "bureau officials point to state and federal regulatory actions and other agreements that have "significantly reduced" the water available for delivery south of the Delta." The announcement said, "This project will evaluate alternatives to restore water supply in consideration of all the authorized purposes of the CVP."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Justices Reject 4 Environmental Cases.

[E&E Publishing](#) (1/8, Reilly) reports that the Supreme Court has "declined to take up a contentious Utah prairie dog case." Last week, Solicitor General Noel Francisco "informed the court that it is planning to work with Utah and county government to 'develop greater regulatory and management flexibility' for property owners affected by the ban on harming the prairie dog." On Dec. 19,

2017, the Fish and Wildlife Service “made available for comment a draft conservation plan meant to streamline permitting incident take authorizations for ‘many types of development activities.’” According to Francisco, “three Utah counties are applying for ‘master incidental take permits’ that would authorize property owners to undertake projects that may harm the species.”

Restoration Of Protections For Yellowstone Grizzlies Urged.

The [AP](#) (1/8) reports that “conservationists and a Montana Indian tribe have asked a judge to restore protections for Yellowstone-area grizzly bears in light of a recent ruling in a case involving Great Lakes wolves.” The request by three conservation groups and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe was filed on Monday in U.S. District Court in Missoula. Lawyers for the conservation groups and tribe claim “the grizzly review is being improperly used as an after-the-fact justification for lifting protections.”

Also reporting is the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (1/8, Chaney).

EPA Delays Decision On GE’s Hudson River PCB Cleanup.

[WAMC-AM](#) Albany, NY (1/8, Dunne) reports that the Environmental Protection Agency has “informed General Electric that its decision about whether to formally determine that the Upper Hudson River PCB cleanup is complete is delayed.” Meanwhile, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “sent a letter to the EPA, saying additional cleanup would accelerate recovery of the river and its resources.”

Red Tide And Speeding Boats Blamed For Manatee Deaths Topping 500 In 2017.

The [Tampa \(FL\) Tribune](#) (1/8, Pittman) reports, “Red Tide algae blooms and speeding boaters helped push manatee deaths in Florida to 538 in 2017, the third highest total on record, according to figures compiled by the state’s Fish and Wildlife Research Institute.” The state “documented 63 Red-Tide related carcasses during this event in 2017,” FWRI spokeswoman Michelle Kerr said. Also, “speeding boats killed 106 manatees last year, according to the FWRI figures.”

National Park Service

Tester Requests Capitol Christmas Tree Be Used In

Sperry Chalet Rebuild.

The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (1/8, Frissell) reports that Sen. Jon Tester “announced Monday that he would like to see the Christmas tree that’s adorned the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol for the past month hauled back to Montana and used in the reconstruction of the historic Sperry Chalet.” Tester said in a press release, “This wooden and stone landmark, built in Glacier’s rugged backcountry more than a century ago, is irreplaceable. But efforts are underway to rebuild the Sperry Chalet, and I can think of no better use for some of the Montana lumber in our Capitol Christmas Tree to assist in that endeavor. I’d like to see this tree go home to Big Sky Country, where it can continue giving to the people to whom our public lands belong.”

Repair Work Begins On Lincoln Memorial.

The [Washington Post](#) (1/8, Hermann) reports that the National Park Service announced Monday that “a multiyear, \$25 million overhaul of the Lincoln Memorial has begun.” According to a statement by the NPS, “staging for the first phase, an eight-month-long project to replace roofs and repair marble damaged during the 2011 earthquake, began last week.” The statement said, “The flat upper and lower roofs of the memorial were last replaced 20 years ago and are starting to fail,” the statement said. “Incoming water is staining the interior walls of the memorial.”

The Reflecting Pool Isn’t A Skating Rink, Washington Tells Visitors.

The [New York Times](#) (1/8, Hauser, Baumgaertner) reports that in the past week, parks authorities in Washington warned visitors “after a number of people trying to skate or walk across the surface of the Reflecting Pool on the National Mall broke through the ice.” No one was injured. However, “with temperatures dipping to the single digits on some days and winds bestowing a chill that makes the air feel below zero even if you’re not wet, anyone who gets dipped into the water, even if just knee-deep, risks hypothermia, the National Mall and Memorial Parks said in a Facebook post over the weekend.”

Trump Signs Bill Banning Big Rigs From Water Gap NRA In Pa..

The [New Jersey Herald](#) (1/9, Scruton) reports that “a bill to allow some commercial traffic onto Route 209 on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area was signed into law Monday” by

President Trump. The new law, "which expires on Sept. 30, 2021, sets up a permit system for commercial vehicles with four or fewer axles to use the approximately 25-mile section between Route 206 just south of Milford, and Bushkill Falls Road in Lehman."

People Are Petitioning Against A New Starbucks In Yosemite National Park.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/8, Rock) report that "over 9,000 people have signed a [Change.org](#) petition to prohibit a Starbucks from opening up shop in Yosemite National Park." If the petition gets 10,000 supporters, "it will be delivered to Rep. Tom McClintock, who represents the congressional district in which the park is located, and to California's two senators, Kamala Harris and Dianne Feinstein." The petition reads, "Multinational corporations have no place in our National Parks. The opening of a Starbucks in Yosemite Valley opens the door to further undue development. The Park will lose its essence, making it hardly distinguishable from a chaotic and bustling commercial city."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Mail](#) (1/8, Parry).

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Breaks Ground For New Visitor Center.

The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (1/8, Conn) reports that braving cold weather, "about 50 enthusiasts gathered in the valley on Monday to break ground for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park's \$6 million state-of-the-art visitor center." According to the article, "excitement has been building for the center, which in May 2019 will begin serving as the national park's new front door." Pam Barnes, the national park's community engagement supervisor, said, "It's an expectation when you're going to a national park, to have a visitor center. It's really something we needed."

Springfield Armory Now Under Care Of The National Park Service.

[WWLP-TV](#) Springfield, MA (1/8, Caron) reports that "the historic arsenal inside the Springfield Armory is now under the care of the National Park Service." Alex MacKenzie, Springfield Armory Curator said, said, "This really means that the collection is going to stay here and that we can continue to tell the amazing story of the Springfield armory here on site." The NPS has "been unofficially taking care of the collection for the past 40 years."

Hurricane Nate Sand To Be Removed Starting Tuesday.

The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (1/8) reports that the National Park Service is "ready to begin moving sand that washed up on roadways and parking lots during Hurricane Nate." Contractors will start "moving sand along Highway 399 on Tuesday and will continue for about two to three weeks from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily." The work will involve "distributing sand, deposited on roadways and parking lots during Hurricane Nate, to Highway 399 road shoulders to reduce or remove any excessive drop-offs."

US Geological Survey

U.S. Rivers Getting Saltier, Drinking Water At Risk: Study.

[Reuters](#) (1/8, Gardner) reports that "U.S. rivers and streams have become saltier and more alkaline over the last 50 years, posing risks to drinking water by damaging pipelines and other infrastructure, according to a study released on Monday." The article says that "as municipal workers dump salt on roads to combat ice and farmers put fertilizer on fields, the runoff has made U.S. waterways saltier and more alkaline, according to the study, which examined decades of data recorded from 232 U.S. Geological Survey monitoring sites."

Experts Worry About Lingering Autumn Color In Sabino Canyon.

The [AP](#) (1/8) reports that "some areas of Arizona's Sabino Canyon are still showing their fall colors in the winter month of January." Naturalist David Lazaroff "said the colors are 'pleasant to the eye but troubling to the soul.'" According to the article, "prolonged drought conditions have left the canyon near Tucson bone dry for an unusually long period of time." U.S. Geological Survey Research Hydrologist Chris Magirl "said there has not been any flow in Sabino Creek since Sept. 14."

Additional Reading.

- *Reducing Climate Uncertainty, Improving Weather Forecasts, And Understanding Sea-level Rise.* [Phys \(UK\)](#) (1/8).
- *Reston Community Mourns Passing Of Former USGS Director John Marshall Aaron, III.* [Fairfax \(VA\) Times](#) (1/8).

Opinion Pieces

Mr. Zinke's Risky Venture Into Deep Water.

The [New York Times](#) (1/8) editorializes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's proposal "to roll back safety regulations for offshore drilling rigs put in place after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon blowout" reveal the Trump Administration's "fealty to the oil and gas industry." The Times also criticizes Zinke's proposal "to open up vast areas of America's offshore federal waters to oil drilling." The publication asserts that the safety regulation rollbacks would lighten the energy "industry's responsibilities, and in so doing suggest a return to a more permissive regulatory era."

Why Trump's Offshore Drilling Expansion Won't Be So 'Yuge'. Sam Ori writes a contributing piece in [Forbes](#) (1/8, Ori) saying that despite the aggressiveness of the plan, the proposal faces significant obstacles before any actual leases can be sold. Ori says sales are likely to be contested by the state governments of Washington, Oregon, California and the entire Northeast. While the OCS resources belong to the federal government, states have significant leverage over significant steps in the development process.

Will Trump's Oil Drilling Mistake Cause Another Deepwater Disaster? In an op-ed in [Conversation \(UK\)](#), (1/8, Boesch) Donald Boesch, who previously served on the bipartisan national commission that investigated the cause of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon explosion, argues that "rolling back regulations, as the president and his administration propose, will completely ignore the painful lessons of the Deepwater disaster." He claims that Scott Angelle, who heads the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement still to this day contradicts the commission's findings that there was "systemic problems in offshore drilling regulation at the time of the spill." Boesch also criticizes Angelle for "formally propos[ing] changes in production safety systems to rely on standards developed by the American Petroleum Institute, rather than the government."

Additional Commentary. Additional commentary appeared in the [Hilton Head Island \(SC\) Packet](#) (1/8, Bennett), the [Daily Beast](#) (1/8, Gilpin), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (1/8, Giessel), the [Tampa \(FL\) Tribune](#) (1/8, Lehmann), the [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (1/8, Lehmann), the [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (1/8), the [Florida Times-Union](#) (1/8), the [New Hampshire Union Leader](#) (1/9, Sullivan), the [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (1/8, Harmon), and the [Asbury Park \(NJ\) Press](#) (1/8).

Additional Reading.

- *Myriad Factors Combine To Make Energy Outlook Very Rosy In 2018.* [The Hill](#) (1/7, Arnold).
- *Build The King Cove Road: Saving Lives In King Cove A Worthy Exception To Wilderness Rule.* [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (1/9).
- *The Attack On Patagonia Is An Attack On American Sportsmen And Women.* [Forbes](#) (1/8, Burke).
- *Change In Law Has Gutted Protection For Migratory Birds.* [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (1/8, Williams).
- *Shrinking The Sanctuaries And 'the Last Trump'.* [The Berkshire \(MA\) Edge](#) (1/8, Swan).
- *COMMUNITY VOICES: The Crown Jewels Of The US That Shouldn't Be Touched.* [Bakersfield \(CA\) Californian](#) (1/8, Ananian).
- *Reader's View: Environmental Elitists Jeopardizing Mining.* [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (1/8, Cole).
- *Southern New Mexico Wildlife Projects Entice All Kinds Of Critters.* [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (1/8, Mitchusson).
- *This Case Against Western Ranchers Shows Why Americans Are Right To Fear Government.* [Daily Signal](#) (1/8, Stepman).
- *Block Trump Effort To Send More Delta Water South.* [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (1/8).
- *Developing Our Own Supply Of Critical Minerals Is Essential For Working Moms.* [Independent Women's Forum](#) (1/8, Cooke).

Top National News

In Nashville, Trump Tells Farmers “The American Dream Is Roaring Back.”

President Trump’s speech before the American Farm Bureau Federation annual convention in Nashville receives limited but mostly straightforward or positive coverage. None of the broadcast networks reported on the speech, but print coverage and local television reports say that the President was well-received by a friendly crowd. Some reports indicate, however, that while rural voters overwhelmingly backed Trump in 2016, some farmers are wary of Trump’s stance on NAFTA, a subject he touched on in the speech.

[The Tennessean](#) (1/8, Ebert, Garrison) reports that during his “whirlwind trip to Nashville,” the President “touted his recently approved tax bill and signed an

executive order aimed at promoting the expansion of broadband internet into rural areas that lack connectivity." He addressed "a crowd of nearly 5,000 American Farm Bureau Federation members," and said, "The American dream is roaring back." The Tennessean writes that "in a rarity" for Trump, he "stayed mostly on script and was more policy-focused than usual" during the 35-minute speech.

However, [WKRN-TV](#) Nashville, TN (1/8, 5:00 p.m. CST) called it a "campaign-style address," and [WTVF-TV](#) Nashville, TN (1/8, 6:32 p.m. CST) reported that Trump had a "favorable crowd" as he delivered a "tailor-made...speech to rile up his base. A lot of the people here voted for the President even though they say they don't agree with the fact that he wants to do away with the North American Free Trade Agreement."

[WZTV-TV](#) Nashville, TN (1/8, 5:34 p.m. CST) reported, "When the President was talking to members of the Farm Bureau today, he was talking to members of his base and he told them this Administration thinks about small businesses, like the American farmer, in every decision that they make." [WSMV-TV](#) Nashville, TN (1/8, 5:02 p.m. CST) reported that Trump "knew his crowd. He was speaking to a room full of farmers and ranchers from rural America, from the sounds of it most of them Trump supporters, so the President was sure to talk about the issues most near and dear to their hearts."

The [AP](#) (1/8, Miller) reports that Trump "became the first president in a quarter-century" to address the convention, and "pitched his efforts to help rural America, promoting his tax overhaul law and economic development plans." He "warned against voting for Democrats in this November's midterm elections, saying they would undo the tax bill." Trump said, "If the Democrats ever had the chance, the first thing they would do is get rid of it and raise up your taxes." The [Washington Times](#) (1/8, Boyer) reports that in his "first speech of the mid-term election year," Trump warned "that Democrats would reverse his administration's achievements on cutting taxes and reducing regulations if they regain control of Congress."

The [New York Times](#) (1/8, Shear, Tankersley) reports that "Trump – who has made clear that he likes big numbers – claimed that the tax overhaul cut taxes by \$5.5 trillion when, in fact, the legislation will reduce the overall tax burden on individuals and companies over the next decade by \$1.5 trillion. ... The inaccurate boast was part of a speech in which the president sought to underscore the benefits that middle-class

families would receive as part of the tax overhaul."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (1/8, Westwood) reports that Trump "highlighted provisions of the tax law that will change the way farmers write off purchases of new equipment." He said, "All American businesses, including American farmers, will be able to deduct 100% of the cost of new equipment in the year you make the investment."

[NPR](#) (1/8, Horsley) reports on its website that Agriculture Secretary Perdue, who accompanied the President, said in an interview, "Farmers are the President's people. These are the people that elected the President. The President knows that. These are the people the President cares about. And he wants them to enjoy the American Dream just like all the people in the cities."

On NAFTA, [The Hill](#) (1/8, Fabian) reports, Trump "promised he would get a 'better deal' from Canada and Mexico." He "said 'it's not the easiest negotiation' because the US's North American neighbors are 'making all of that money,' but pledged he will 'make it fair to you people again.'" [Bloomberg News](#) (1/8, Bjerga) reports, "While farmers overwhelmingly backed Trump in his 2016 campaign, some of his policies have raised concerns with them, including his threat to withdraw" from NAFTA.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/8, Mauldin) reports that the President's past comments on NAFTA have concerned farmers who have duty-free access to Canadian and Mexican markets. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/8) says that a US exit from NAFTA would hurt rural farm states the most, and that it would be a painful self-inflicted wound against the nation.

Trump also tweeted three times about the speech, first [tweeting](#) that he "can't wait to be back in the amazing state of Tennessee," then tweeting two brief clips, first [writing](#), "We have been working every day to DELIVER for America's Farmers just as they work every day to deliver FOR US," then [writing](#), "In every decision we make, we are honoring America's PROUD FARMING LEGACY. Years of crushing taxes, crippling regs, & corrupt politics left our communities hurting, our economy stagnant, & millions of hardworking Americans COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN. But they are not forgotten ANYMORE!"

Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), who is running for Senate, [tweeted](#), "It's been 26 years since a sitting president attended the @FarmBureau Convention. Thank you @realDonaldTrump for speaking at #AFBF18 to address crucial issues, and how you plan to bring

positive change." Sen. Roger Wicker [tweeted](#), "This country is at its best when those living in rural America are given the opportunity to succeed. Thank you, @realDonaldTrump, for fighting for rural Americans!"

[Reuters](#) (1/8) and the [CNBC](#) (1/8) website also have reports on the speech.

Trump: "We Want Our Flag Respected." The [Washington Post](#) (1/8, Dawsey, Gearan) reports that during the speech, Trump "revived his criticism of athletes who do not stand during the national anthem" during the speech. telling the "supportive crowd...that 'we want our national anthem respected.'" Trump said, "We want our flag respected. ... There's plenty of space for people to express their views and to protest, but we love our flag and we love our anthem and we want to keep it that way." The Post says the President "did not revisit the specifics of his public quarrel last fall" with football players who knelt during anthem at games this season as "a protest against racial inequality and police brutality."

Trump Signs Executive Order Expanding Rural Broadband. [Townhall](#) (1/8, Pavlich) reports that following his speech, the President signed an executive order expanding broadband Internet to rural America under the auspices of the USDA. Secretary Perdue [tweeted](#), "High-speed Internet access, E-Connectivity, is key to spurring increased prosperity in rural America. That's one key finding in our Task Force report delivered to @POTUS today."

Corker Flew On Air Force One With Trump. [Politico](#) (1/8, Restuccia) reports that less than three months after Trump labeled retiring Sen. Bob Corker "an 'incompetent' critic of his tax reform plan who 'couldn't get elected dog catcher in Tennessee,'" Corker "joined Trump on an Air Force One flight to Nashville. ... For those who know the president, his apparent change of heart isn't a surprise. White House aides and outside advisers said the president has been known to alter his opinion about people on a dime, often after they've praised him or walked back their previous criticism."

Trump Greeted By "Loud Cheers And A Smattering Of Boos" At Alabama-Georgia Game.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (1/8, Bluestein) reports that President Trump on Monday "was greeted with a booming chorus of cheers mixed with some boos as he took the field" in Atlanta "for the national anthem ahead of the college football title game between Georgia and Alabama." Trump, "flanked by military members, stood near the 40-yard line with his hand on his heart as the

anthem played. Another wave of cheers and jeers followed him as he left the field."

[WAGA-TV](#) Atlanta (1/8, 11:14 p.m. ET) reported, "President Trump making an appearance at the game tonight. ... The President standing near the 40-yard line with his hand over his heart as the anthem played. The visit is the President's second to Atlanta since becoming president. he left the game around halftime." [WJCL-TV](#) Savannah, GA (1/8, 11:06 p.m. ET) reported, "The stadium roared as President Trump walked onto the field before the national anthem." [WGCL-TV](#) Atlanta (1/8, 11:02 p.m. ET) reported, "It was a brief trip. ... There were rumors Vice President Mike Pence would also be attending tonight's championship game, but as far as we could tell, he was not there." [WSB-TV](#) Atlanta (1/8, 11:10 p.m. ET) also had a report.

The [New York Times](#) (1/8, Blinder, Shear) reports that Trump "made no remarks after entering the stadium to loud cheers and a smattering of boos from the enthusiastic college football fans. In interviews before the game, Mr. Trump's supporters and critics alike dryly noted that he was appearing at one of the country's showiest sporting events in a glittering, \$1.5 billion stadium in a congressional district that he condemned last year on Twitter as 'falling apart' and 'crime infested. But Mr. Trump's appearance placed him at an event that drew widespread attention from two states he carried in the 2016 presidential race and would be certain to need to win re-election in 2020."

The [Washington Post](#) (1/8, Vashi, Eltagouri) reports that Trump "was greeted by a roar of cheers and a smattering of boos as he stepped onto the field...while activist groups demonstrated a president who has used sports to incite political battles." Earlier Monday, Trump, addressing "a group of farmers and ranchers in Nashville, again criticized athletes who do not stand for the national anthem. 'There's plenty of space for people to express their views and to protest, but we love our flag and we love our anthem and we want to keep it that way,' he told the annual gathering of the Farm Bureau."

The [Washington Times](#) (1/8, Miller) reports that Trump "was greeted mostly by cheers from the crowd at Mercedes-Benz Stadium but also suffered some boos. He waved to the crowd before the Zac Brown Band sang the anthem. During the national anthem, he stood stoically with his hands over his heart and appeared to sing along to some of the lyrics." [USA Today](#) (1/8, Schnell) reports that Trump walked "on the field to a

mix of cheers and boos." The President "was mostly cheered when he walked out of the tunnel but at the conclusion of the anthem was loudly booed. That reaction echoed his arrival at the stadium." The [Indianapolis Star](#) (1/8, Clark) reports, "The TV broadcast didn't pick up what Trump was singing, but Twitter already made up its mind: The president didn't know the words to The Star-Spangled Banner."

NAACP, Others Plan Protests Of Trump's Appearance.

Ahead of Trump's slated attendance at the game, the [AP](#) (1/8) reported, the "NAACP is urging people to wear white and hold anti-Trump signs. ... Another group says demonstrators will 'take a knee' before the big game to protest" the President's "visit to Atlanta." The AP adds, "The NAACP said Sunday that wearing white is meant to mock the 'snowflake' label Trump's supporters use to describe their opponents. Another group, Refuse Fascism ATL, says that before kickoff, they'll 'take a knee against Trump' outside CNN's world headquarters, in solidarity with athletes who have knelt during the national anthem to protest racial injustice."

The Federalist: Trump's Appearance Highlights Divide Between Fans, Media. Under the heading "Trump At College Football Championship Highlights Fan, Media Dichotomy," Britt McHenry wrote for [The Federalist](#) (1/8, McHenry) that Trump in 2016 "won Alabama by almost 63 percent," but that state is not the President's "only stronghold in the South. He scored presidential touchdowns in all 11 states of the Southeastern Conference," meaning that with "two Republican electoral strongholds playing the title game Monday, Trump is guaranteed a victory regardless. However, as always, the best Trump can hope for is a participation trophy from the media." McHenry said that during the week ahead of Monday's game, a pair of ESPN personalities blasted Trump. McHenry added, "Under the pomp and circumstance of a flyover visit, millions of viewers, and the thick patriotism of southern fans, Monday night will be the perfect microcosm of President Trump's presidency."

Walker Said He'd Be Meeting With "Great President" Trump During Game. [USA Today](#) (1/8, Schad) reports that ex-Georgia and NFL running back Herschel Walker on Monday "said he plans to spend time with...Trump at Monday night's national championship game." Speaking with Fox News, Walker said of Trump, "We've talked and we're going to meet tonight. I haven't seen him in a while. A lot of people don't know I played for him in the USFL. We've been friends ever since. We still work together on some things – well we did before he became

the big man on campus, as you may say. And so tonight, I'm excited to see him." Walker added, "I'm glad he's at the game, because he loves football. It's sad what's happened with all the kneeling and standing and all that, because Donald Trump is a great man, he's a great president and I wish people could understand that."

Mueller Indicates He May Want To Interview Trump.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/8, Ballhaus) reports that special counsel Robert Mueller has indicated to President Trump's lawyers in December that he may want to interview the President "soon" as part of his investigation. The [Washington Post](#) (1/8, Leonnig) says that "trigger[ed] a discussion among his attorneys about how to avoid a sit-down encounter or set limits on such a session, according to two people familiar with the talks." The Post cites "a person close to the President" who said Mueller's office "could interview Trump very soon on some limited portion of questions – possibly within the next several weeks." According to this person, Trump is comfortable taking part in an interview and believes it would settle questions about whether campaign colluded with Russia during the 2016 election.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) ☐ (1/8, story 3, 1:25, Muir) that while Trump has, in the past, "sounded almost eager to tell Mueller his side of the story," sources "familiar with the discussions tell ABC News, Trump's lawyers are exploring options short of a formal interview, such as providing written answers to a questionnaire." On its website, [NBC News](#) (1/8, Welker, Lee, Ainsley, Jackson) says Trump's lawyers are "seeking clarification on whether the president would be interviewed directly by Mueller, as well as the legal standard for when a president can be interviewed, the location of a possible interview, the topics and the duration." However, they are also "seeking potential compromises that could avoid an interview altogether, two of those interviewed told NBC News." Major Garrett said on The [CBS Evening News](#) ☐ (1/8, story 3, 0:45, Glor) that "the President's lawyers are not only trying to protect executive privilege, but the President's prerogative whether or not to agree to an interview and whether or not it will be a deposition or not, all of that still subject to negotiation."

Kristen Welker reported in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) ☐ (1/8, lead story, 2:35, Holt) that while "legal experts say it's unlikely investigators would agree to anything other than an in-person interview," defense attorneys "say there are a range of pitfalls to the

President testifying in person, pointing to former President Bill Clinton who seemed uncomfortable at times when he appeared before a grand jury in 1998 about the Lewinsky scandal.” The [New York Times](#) (1/8, Apuzzo, Schmidt) reports that while “White House officials viewed the discussion as a sign that Mr. Mueller’s investigation of Mr. Trump could be nearing the end,” allowing prosecutors “to interview a sitting president who has a history of hyperbolic or baseless assertions carries legal risk for him.”

The [AP](#) (1/8, Tucker) reports that a spokesman for Mueller, as well as Trump lawyers Jay Sekulow and John Dowd, “declined to comment” and a White House spokesman “pointed to a statement from White House lawyer Ty Cobb saying the White House doesn’t publicly discuss its conversations with Mueller.”

Rep. Adam Kinzinger said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (1/8), “As I’ve said from the beginning, America just wants answers. This is the best route to get answers to what happened and hold anybody that fell short of the law or violated the law, hold them accountable to what that is. And if Robert Mueller believes he needs to interview the President, I believe the President’s team will setup the proper way to do that.” Kinzinger added, “I think it’s legitimate, I think it’s proper for the President’s team to say we don’t want to have an open ended fishing expedition here.” Rep. Joaquin Castro said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (1/8), “It’s going to be absolutely critical that the special counsel be able to interview Donald Trump on issues not only of collusion with the Russians, who interfered with the 2016 election, but also on issues of money laundering, for example, and obstruction of justice. Those three very big things, among others, and so, you know, I think the nation is anxious to see when that interview takes place.”

Blumenthal, Castro Expect Additional Indictments.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (1/8), “The special counsel is proceeding meticulously and methodically and will interview the President face to face is my prediction. Remember, that we’ve had two convictions, two indictments. The indictments will result in trials, and those trials will be revelatory of additional facts as will the additional convictions and indictments that you can expect early this year from the special counsel. ... Almost certainly in my view there will be additional convictions, guilty pleas, as well as indictments.”

Castro said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (1/8), “I can’t discuss the interviews that I sat through or

particular individuals who I believe may face legal liability, but based on what I've heard and seen in the interviews that have gone in front of the House Intelligence Committee, I would expect that there will be more people who are prosecuted by the special counsel."

House Intel Panel Gains Access To FBI, DOJ

Documents On Trump Dossier. The [Daily Caller](#) (1/8, Pollock) reports that members of the House Intelligence Committee "gained access to all Department of Justice and FBI documents it possesses on the Trump dossier." The panel reviewed "all FBI and DOJ documents on the Trump dossier, former MI-6 British agent Christopher Steele who authored the dossier, and Fusion GPS, the political opposition firm that hired Steele." A "source with knowledge of the case" said DOJ also provided Obama Administration applications to the FISA court, "which could approve the surveillance of the Trump transition team." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/8) credits the committee for fighting for access to the documents despite a lack of cooperation from the FBI and DOJ.

Grassley Won't Release Transcript Of Simpson

Interview. [Bloomberg News](#) (1/8, Dennis) reports that a spokesman for Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley says the Chairman will not "release the committee's transcript from a closed-door interview with Fusion GPS co-founder Glenn Simpson in its Russia probe" despite a call from Democratic Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse and Richard Blumenthal, who complained about "leaks and a referral by Grassley of dossier author Christopher Steele to the Justice Department for possible criminal prosecution." Spokesman George Hartmann said in an email that Grassley wants to make "information public at the appropriate time. ... However, in the course of an ongoing investigation with witness interviews yet to be completed, releasing transcripts could jeopardize the integrity of the committee's work."

The [New York Times](#) (1/8, Flegenheimer) profiles Simpson, whose name has become "shorthand in conservative circles for purported investigatory overreach and counterconspiracies against the White House. Questions about his work have become central to Republican attempts to discredit not just Fusion but the very existence of inquiries into Mr. Trump, including the efforts of the special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III."

Ohr Leaves Second DOJ Position. The [Daily Caller](#) (1/8, Ross) reports that Bruce Ohr, a DOJ official who was demoted last month after he was linked to the Trump dossier, "has left a second high-level position at

the agency." At the beginning of December, Ohr "held two positions at DOJ: associate deputy attorney general and director of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF)." Ohr was removed from the associate deputy attorney general position last month after it was revealed that he met separately with Simpson and dossier author Christopher Steele in 2016. Now, Ohr "will no longer lead OCDETF," according to a Fox News report on Monday. A spokeswoman for the Department "confirmed Ohr's separation from that division but did not say whether Ohr resigned or was removed from the position."

Fusion GPS Calls For Trump-Appointed Judge's Recusal. [Politico](#) (1/8, Gerstein) reports in its "Under The Radar" blog that lawyers for Fusion GPS argue that US District Judge Trevor McFadden, who was appointed by Trump, "has so many conflicts of interest that he should recuse himself from a legal case stemming from BuzzFeed's publication of the dossier earlier this year." The lawyers say McFadden's impartiality "is open to question because he represented a firm owned by a Russian businessman who claims he was libeled by publication of the dossier and he was a top lawyer at the Justice Department's Criminal Division last year when Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley requested an investigation into Fusion." In addition, they argue that "'perhaps' the most significant conflict is McFadden's work as a 'veter' on Trump's transition team."

Administration Ends TPS For More Than 200,000 Salvadorans.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (1/8, story 11, 0:20, Glor) – the only network to cover the story Monday night – briefly reported that the Administration announced "it will end special protection for nearly 200,000 immigrants from El Salvador." The temporary protected status (TPS) was granted "after a 2001 earthquake there that killed more than 1,000 people. Now, they have until September of next year to leave the US or face deportation."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/8, Tanfani) reports that in announcing the decision, Administration officials said conditions in El Salvador "have improved markedly since 2001, when the Bush Administration first made the special protections available in the wake of two earthquakes that devastated" the small country. DHS said those with TPS will have until Sept. 9, 2019, "to arrange a return or, in some cases, to apply for alternative legal means of staying in the US." [McClatchy](#)

(1/8, Ordoñez, Kumar) reports DHS Secretary Nielsen “said that only Congress can legislate a permanent solution for those currently protected by TPS and that the delay will allow Congress time to craft a potential legislative solution.”

[USA Today](#) (1/8, Gomez) reports Nielsen concluded that El Salvador “has rebuilt and recovered enough so the emergency declaration is no longer necessary.” While USA Today notes that the State Department issued a travel warning to US travelers last February “about widespread violence throughout that country,” DHS said its decision was based “on recovery from the earthquakes and not on the current state of gang violence.”

The [Washington Post](#) (1/8, Miroff, Nakamura) says Monday’s announcement is “the latest in a series of steps by the administration to cut the number of foreigners living in the United States, by squeezing the flow of legal immigration and intensifying efforts to expel those who arrived illegally.” While immigrant advocates urged Nielsen to consider the approximately 190,000 US-born children of Salvadoran TPS recipients, “senior DHS officials told reporters Monday that Salvadoran parents would have to make [the] choice” of whether or not to take their children home with them.

The [AP](#) (1/8, Lugo, Spagat) says the decision, “while not surprising, was a severe blow to Salvadorans,” and [Reuters](#) (1/8) reports that Haitians and Nicaraguans will also lose their protected status in 2019 and Hondurans, “the second largest group in the program, could lose their rights later this year.”

The [New York Times](#) (1/8, Jordan) calls Monday’s move “the Trump Administration’s latest reversal of years of immigration policies and one of the most consequential to date,” and [Politico](#) (1/8, Hesson, Kim, Caygle) warns it “could complicate already-tense negotiations on Capitol Hill over a possible solution for undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children, as a bipartisan group of senators working on a possible DACA deal weighs a possible legislative fix for former TPS recipients.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/8, Meckler, Caldwell) likewise says their fate could become intertwined with other ongoing negotiations on the Hill over immigration policy.

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (1/8, Lehman) says Monday’s announcement will also “have a significant impact on a population that has, in some cases, lived in the United States for more than two decades,” and the [Washington Post](#) (1/8, Partlow) reports that it “could cause far-reaching disruptions in the small Central

American country, including a steep decline in remittances from abroad and a destabilizing wave of returning citizens to a homeland still racked by violence, according to immigration experts."

Miller: US Has Right To Set Criteria For Immigrants.

White House Senior Policy Adviser Stephen Miller said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (1/8) that "the reality is there's a limit to the number of people" the US can "bring in. We have a right to say we want to bring people based on their ability to contribute to the economy." When asked about the criteria for letting people into the US, Miller [said](#) Trump is looking at things like language proficiency, economic skills, backgrounds in science and engineering, and age, adding, "obviously you bring in immigrants who are in their 80s or 90s, that will have a significant expense on society, so you want folks primarily in their working years."

Republicans, White House "Increasingly Skeptical" Of Long-Term Budget Deal.

[Politico](#) (1/8, Bade, Kim, Bresnahan) reports that congressional Republicans and White House officials are "increasingly skeptical that they'll reach a long-term budget agreement with Democrats in the next 11 days, accusing progressives of slow-walking a spending deal until they get what they want on immigration." According to Politico, Democrats and Republicans are "still far apart on border security and other immigration provisions that would be needed to clinch a deal on the matter." A "White House official" said, "I'm pessimistic that we'll get a caps deal by the 19th...because I think the Dems are going to slow-walk this discussion until they get DACA in place, and I don't think we will have a deal on DACA by Jan 19."

The [Washington Times](#) (1/7, Dinan) likewise reports that the "chances of an immigration-fueled shutdown showdown are growing after Democrats in recent days have rejected a long list of President Trump's border and interior security demands." According to the Times, "both sides are eyeing a meeting between Mr. Trump and a bipartisan group of congressional negotiators this week."

A [USA Today](#) (1/8, Shesgreen) analysis says that "no one wants to shut down the government — or so congressional leaders in both parties keep telling us. And yet here we are again, counting down the days until federal money runs dry." USA Today notes that in the last five years, Congress has passed 15 short-term spending bills, making it seem "that all lawmakers can

do is pass short-term, stop-gap spending bills that push hard decisions a few weeks or a few months down the line. And then they do it all over again."

Sanders: Shutdown Would Be "A Disaster." Sen. Bernie Sanders writes in the [Washington Post](#) (1/8, Sanders), "I do not know why President Trump and the Republican Party — which controls the White House, the Senate and the House — are so willing to shut down the government," but "one thing is clear: A government shutdown would be disastrous for the American people." Congress, he argues, "has a responsibility to the American people to prevent a shutdown and work in a bipartisan manner to reach a fair budget agreement that addresses the very serious problems facing the working people of our country."

Analysts Skeptical About Trump Infrastructure Plan's Price Tag.

The [Washington Times](#) (1/8, Miller) reports that while the President has promised to push a massive infrastructure program this year, analysts say that "until he can figure out a way to pay the \$1 trillion price tag...the idea is not viable." The Times adds that "Republican deficit hawks [are] leery of big-ticket projects and Democrats [are] determined to have federal taxpayers foot the whole bill," which leaves little "middle ground for the president to find the cash he'll need." The White House plans to rollout a plan this month that will combine "regulatory relief, \$200 billion in federal dollars and a push for state and local governments to do the rest with alternative financing schemes." However, "skepticism abounds about the Trump plan." Said Cato Institute tax policy director Chris Edwards, "I don't see how they are going to pay for it. I think that's one of the reasons they are stalling on it."

McCarthy Lays Out GOP Agenda For 2018. House Majority Leader McCarthy said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (1/8), "We start right where we left off, the beginning of the tax reform, the reg reform, the VA reform that we did. That was the start of America's comeback. Now 2018 you want to complete that job. ... So what we want to do is build from there, more economic growth. You've got unemployment at 17-year low, so we are going to have a problem with making sure we are getting enough people into the workforce, able-bodies and others. So, how can we help from training? ... Infrastructure, we have to make sure that we are rebuilding America as America continues to grow. We look at the opioid epidemic across the country. We have to be able to solve that. Then most

importantly rebuilding our military. It's been devastated by the cut that is have gone through on the Obama Administration."

FERC Rejects Perry Plan To Prop Up Nuclear, Coal Power In Struggling Markets.

The [Washington Post](#) (1/8, Mufson) reports that the five-member Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, four of whom were appointed by President Trump, "on Monday unanimously rejected a proposal by Energy Secretary Rick Perry that would have propped up nuclear and coal power struggling in competitive electricity markets." The commission "said that it shared Perry's stated goal of strengthening the 'resilience' of the electricity grid and it directed regional transmission operators to provide information to help the commission examine the matter 'holistically.'"

A front-page story in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/8, Puko) says the FERC ruling stops, at least temporarily, a proposal that could have cost consumers billions more on their electricity bills to provide more revenue to coal and nuclear plants.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Republicans In Congress Are Failing America's Children." The [New York Times](#) (1/8) editorial calls it a "travesty" that "Republican leaders in Congress have failed to renew the Children's Health Insurance Program." Noting that Republican leaders said after last weekend's meeting with the President at Camp David that they "wanted to work with Democrats on bipartisan legislation this year," the Times argues that "they can start with CHIP. America's children are counting on it."

"Mr. Zinke's Risky Venture Into Deep Water." The [New York Times](#) (1/8) editorializes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's proposal "to roll back safety regulations for offshore drilling rigs put in place after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon blowout" reveal the Trump Administration's "fealty to the oil and gas industry." The Times also criticizes Zinke's proposal "to open up vast areas of America's offshore federal waters to oil drilling." The publication asserts that the safety regulation rollbacks would lighten the energy "industry's responsibilities, and in so doing suggest a return to a more permissive regulatory era."

"Unrest Shows The Iran Nuclear Deal's Value, Not Its Danger." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (1/9,

Board) says “the great promise of the 2015 nuclear deal was economic revival,” but that has not “happened, or at least not the way Iranians expected, thus producing conditions that helped make the recent protests – the most serious since 2009 – possible.” While “President Trump blamed the 2015 nuclear deal” for the unrest, the Times says it is “more plausible that by raising expectations for a better life, the deal opened Iranians’ eyes and made them less tolerant when the government fell short.” The Times says this unrest “reveals a real struggle for Iran’s soul that requires an approach more sophisticated than Mr. Trump’s, which would exploit the turmoil to justify reneging on the nuclear deal.” The Times urges Trump to “be aware that foolish moves by his administration could empower the most regressive forces and set back reforms that could bring Iran fully into the community of nations.”

“Europe Listens Anxiously As Germans Talk.” A [New York Times](#) (1/9, Board) editorial notes German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s attempts to form a new government have ended in “a last stab at reviving the partnership” her Christian Democrats had with the Social Democrats over the last eight years. While this “political uncertainty does not seem to be unduly troubling for Germans,” the Times says, “Europe, and the world, are in urgent need of strong leadership from Berlin as quickly as possible, so the sooner the Germans sort out their politics, the better for all.” The Times outlines various challenges to Merkel’s effort, and concludes in saying: “With so much of the Western world in the grip of various forms of populism and nationalism, reopening Berlin for business can’t happen too soon.”

Washington Post.

“Almost 1,000 Were Killed By Police Last Year. Here’s What To Do About It.” The [Washington Post](#) (1/8) says in an editorial that the “lack of appreciable change” in the number of people killed by police “is a depressing sign that, though much attention has been focused on this issue in the past three years, authorities are falling short in devising and implementing solutions.” The Post calls for “expanding mental-health services,” better training for police, and “the use of intervention teams schooled in how to respond to people in mental distress so that situations don’t escalate into someone being killed.”

“Trump Shouldn’t Undercut The Iranian Protesters He Claims To Stand With.” A [Washington Post](#) (1/8) editorial says the protests that have “rocked Iran during

the past two weeks" were likely triggered by Iranians' "disappointment" in the lack of economic improvement in their country and "hikes in prices" for basic goods. The Post urges President Trump "to consider this when he decides this week whether to maintain the suspension of U.S. sanctions, allowing the [2015 nuclear] agreement to survive." The Post argues that Iran "continues to meet its obligations under the pact," and "there is virtually no chance that Iran will be able to produce a nuclear weapon in the next few years." If Trump voids the deal by reapplying US sanctions, the Post says, "it would split the United States from its partners in the accord," grant Iran an opportunity "to resume nuclear activity immediately," and "distract from the grievances being raised by Iranian protesters by providing the regime with an external threat."

"Metro To Riders: Come Back. We Love You." The [Washington Post](#) (1/8) editorializes that Metro's proposal to refund fares if there is more than a 15 minute delay on a rush-hour trip is "about the sweetest public relations gesture imaginable from a large, faceless transit system whose performance and general reliability have not engendered many warm feelings in passengers." The publication points to the nearly 20 percent drop in average weekday ridership since 2008 as the impetus for the change. The Post concludes that the message from Metro to lost customers is clear: "Come back. We love you."

Wall Street Journal.

"Will Trump Punish The Farm Belt?" In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/8) says that a US exit from NAFTA would hurt rural farm states the most, and that it would be a painful self-inflicted wound against the nation.

"The Russian Transparency Front." Now that members of the House Intelligence Committee gained access to documents the Department of Justice and FBI possess on the Trump dossier, a [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/8) editorial credits the committee for fighting for access to the documents despite a lack of cooperation from the agencies.

"Could Oprah Out-Trump Donald?" A [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/8, Board) editorial says that to become president, Oprah Winfrey would have to survive a primary which is expected to include Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris and as many as 15 other Democrats. If she does, she will have to convince voters that a Winfrey Administration would not be a return to the Obama-era power structure. Nonetheless,

the Journal adds, after 2016, her chances should not be ruled out.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Federal Regulators Rule Against Trump Administration On Power Plants](#)

[Amid Signs Of A Thaw On North Korea, Tensions Bubble Up](#)

[Huawei, Long Seen As Spy Threat, Rolled Over US Road Bumps](#)

[As Stocks Reach New Highs, Investors Abandon Hedges](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Administration Says That Nearly 200,000 Salvadorans Must Leave](#)

[Fusion GPS Founder Hauled From The Shadows For The Russia Election Investigation](#)

[At Kennedy, The Planes Just Wouldn't Stop Coming In Deepest Cold, A Subway Car Becomes The Shelter Of Last Resort](#)

[Oprah 2020? Democrats Swing From Giddy To Skeptical At The Prospect](#)

Washington Post:

[Looking For Victory After Famous Loss](#)

[Fending For Themselves](#)

[Democrats Gripped By Draft-Winfrey Fever](#)

[After 17 Years, They Now Fear Losing Everything](#)

[US To Revoke Protected Status For Salvadorans](#)

[Mueller Is Likely To Ask To Question President](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump Ends 'Temporary Protected Status' Of 200,000 Salvadorans](#)

[Fire Breaks Out On Roof Of Trump Tower In New York](#)
[Quant Hedge Funds Set To Surpass \\$1tn Management Mark](#)

Washington Times:

[Democrats In Iowa, New Hampshire Swoon At Thought Of An Oprah White House Run](#)

[DHS Announces End To Special Status For 200,000 Salvadorans](#)

[Sea Of Troubles — Navy Seeks Course Correction After Disastrous Year](#)

[White House Hunts For \\$1 Trillion To Rebuild America's Infrastructure](#)

[Judge Throws Out Case Against Bundys, Bars Retrial With Stunning Rebuke To Federal Prosecutors](#)

[Bleak Plight Of Rohingya Spurs Fears As Radical Islamic Movement Seeks New Recruits](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather-Travel Disruptions; Weather Forecast; Russia Probe-WH; Wolff New Book WH; Flu Warning; North-South Korea Meeting; Oprah Winfrey Presidential Potential; Washington State-Sheriff Shot; Trump Tower Fire; Exercise Benefits-Heart; College Football News; US Figure Skater.

CBS: Oprah Winfrey Presidential Potential; Wolff New Book WH; Russia Probe-WH; Severe Weather-Travel Disruptions; North-South Korea Meeting; Hollywood Anti-Sexual Misconduct Movement; Mitt Romney-Prostate Cancer Treatment; Trump Tower Fire; California-Storm Weather; Flu Warning; Trump Admin-Immigration Policy Change; Sahara Desert-Snow Fall; Jupiter Weather Picture; Golden Globe Awards; Queen Elizabeth Interview.

NBC: Russia Probe-WH; Oprah Winfrey Presidential Potential; Smartphone Addiction; Denver Deputy Murder Video; 2017 US Natural Disasters; Severe Weather; North-South Korea Meeting; Mitt Romney-Prostate Cancer Treatment; CES Las Vegas; Fake Website Scam; Ibuprofen-Fertility; Trump Tower Fire; UK-Princess Charlotte Pictures; College Football News.

Network TV At A Glance:

Oprah Winfrey Presidential Potential – 9 minutes, 5 seconds

Severe Weather – 7 minutes, 55 seconds

Russia Probe-WH – 4 minutes, 45 seconds

North-South Korea Meeting – 4 minutes, 30 seconds

Trump Tower Fire – 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Russia Probe-WH; Nevada Rancher Lawsuit; Flint Water Contamination Lawsuit; College Hazing Death Trial.

CBS: Russia Probe-WH; Trump-American Farm Bureau Speech; College Football News; Nevada Rancher Lawsuit; North-South Korea Meeting; Wall Street News.

FOX: Government Budget; Trump-American Farm Bureau Speech; College Football News; North-South Korea Meeting; Washington State-Sheriff Shot.

NPR: Trump-American Farm Bureau Speech; Severe Weather; Pakistan ISIS Growth; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with bipartisan members of the Senate on immigration; signs an Executive Order on 'Supporting our Veterans during their Transition from Uniformed Service to Civilian Life'; meets with Secretary of Defense James Mattis.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in the Senate Republican Policy Lunch.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on attacks on U.S. diplomats in Cuba – Western Hemisphere Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights and Global Women's Issues Subcommittee hearing on 'Attacks on U.S. Diplomats in Cuba: Response and Oversight', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Francisco Palmieri; Diplomatic Security Service Assistant Director of International Programs Todd Brown; and State Department Bureau of Medical Services Medical Director Dr Charles Rosenfarb * A number of U.S. members of the diplomatic community and intelligence operatives in Havana have been left with mysterious hearing loss and brain damage, following reports of unidentified high-pitched noises and other sensations, although Committee Republican member Jeff Flake last weekend cited Cuban Ministry of the Interior officials in saying that the FBI has found no evidence that symptoms were the results of an attack with an unknown weapon Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the opioid crisis – Hearing on 'The Opioid Crisis: An Examination of How We Got Here and How We Move Forward', with testimony from journalist and author Sam Quinones Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee considers Alex Azar to be HHS secretary – Nominations hearing considers Alex Azar to be Secretary of Health and Human Services * President Donald Trump announced the nomination of the former Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services / former Eli Lilly and Company senior vice president and Lilly USA president in

November, following the resignation of Tom Price – amid controversy over private jet use – after less than eight months in the role Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 215, Washington, DC

<http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Banking Committee hearing on combating money laundering – Hearing on ‘Combating Money Laundering and Other Forms of Illicit Finance: Opportunities to Reform and Strengthen BSA Enforcement’, with testimony from The Clearing House Association President Greg Baer; DML Associates President and CEO (and former FBI Financial Crimes Program Chief) Dennis Lormel; and Global Financial Integrity Legal Counsel and Director of Government Affairs Heather Lowe Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

US House: 10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on ‘H.R. 4532, Shash Jaa National Monument and Indian Creek National Monument Act’. With testimony from Utah Governor Gary Herbert Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC

<http://naturalresources.house.gov>

<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee hearing on ‘On the Line: Border Security from an Agent and Officer Perspective’ Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC

homeland.house.gov

<https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Energy subcommittee hearing on modernizing the Department of Energy – Energy Subcommittee hearing on ‘DOE Modernization: Advancing DOE’s Mission for National, Economic, and Energy Security of the United States’, with testimony from Deputy Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette, Under Secretary for Science Paul Dabbar, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security (and National Nuclear Security Administration Administrator) Frank Klotz, and Under Secretary Mark Menezes; Center for Strategic and International Studies Energy and National Security Program Director Sarah Ladislaw; University of Chicago Professor Emeritus Dr Donald Levy; ClearPath Foundation Executive Director Rich Powell; Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Dan Reicher; Argonne National Laboratory’s Dr Steve Wasserman (on behalf of Society for Science at User Research Facilities); and Oak Ridge National Laboratory Director Dr Thomas Zacharia Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123,

Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on CFIUS – Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on ‘Evaluating CFIUS: Challenges Posed by a Changing Global Economy’, with testimony from Commission on the Theft of American Intellectual Property Co-Chair (and former National Security Council Director of National Intelligence) Adm. (Ret.) Dennis Blair; Baker & McKenzie partner Rod Hunter; former Deputy Secretary of Commerce W. Theodore Kassinger; Center for Strategic & International Studies Project on Chinese Business & Political Economy Director Dr Scott Kennedy; and American Enterprise Institute Resident Scholar Dr Derek Scissors Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC
<http://financialservices.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of legislation including ‘H.R. 4577 – Domestic Explosives Detection Canine Capacity Building Act of 2017’, as amended, ‘H.R. 1486 – Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2017’, as amended, ‘H.R. 4578 – Counter Terrorist Network Act’, ‘H.R. 4567 – DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2017’, as amended, H.R. 4559 – Global Aviation System Security Reform Act of 2017’, as amended, ‘H.R. 3202 – Cyber Vulnerability Disclosure Reporting Act’, ‘H.R. 4555 – DHS Interagency Counterterrorism Task Force Act of 2017’, as amended, ‘H.R. 4564 – Post-Caliphate Threat Assessment Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 4581 – Screening and Vetting Passenger Exchange Act of 2017’, and ‘H.Res. 676 – Supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes’, and ‘H.R. 535 – Taiwan Travel Act’ under suspension of the rules Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee latest hearing on ‘a more efficient federal financial regulatory regime’ – Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee hearing on ‘Legislative Proposals for a More Efficient Federal Financial Regulatory Regime: Part III’, with testimony from Triad Financial Services Executive Vice President and COO E.J. Gleim (on behalf of Manufactured Housing Institute); Tioga State Bank President and CEO Robert Fisher (on behalf of Independent Community Bankers of America); Center

for Responsible Lending Director of Federal Advocacy
Scott Astrada; and The American Legion Legislative
Division Director Matthew Shuman Location: Rayburn
House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC

<http://financialservices.house.gov>

<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:00 PM House Armed Services subcommittee
hearing on China's pursuit of emerging and exponential
technologies – Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Subcommittee hearing on 'China's Pursuit of Emerging
and Exponential Technologies', with testimony from
Heritage Foundation Senior Fellow Dean Cheng; Center
for a New America Foundation Technology and National
Security Program Director Paul Scharre; and Center for
Strategic and International Studies Technology Policy
Program Deputy Director William Carter Location:
Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington,
DC www.armedservices.house.gov

<https://twitter.com/HASCREpublicans>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing –
Hearing on 'S. 140 – A bill to amend the White Mountain
Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to
clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement
Fund', and 'S. 139' – the legislative vehicle for the FISA
Amendments Reauthorization Act of 2017 Location: U.S.
Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC

<http://www.rules.house.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

3:30 PM Congressional Black Caucus forum on lack
of diversity in President Trump's federal bench nominees
– Congressional Black Caucus Judicial Nominations
Working Group chair Democratic Rep. Eleanor Holmes
Norton leads CBC forum on 'the lack of diversity and, in
some cases, lack of qualifications, of President Donald
Trump's nominees for the federal bench'. Experts
testifying and answering questions from CBC Members
include Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
President and Executive Director Kristen Clarke,
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
President and CEO Vanita Gupta, NAACP Legal Defense
and Education Fund Director of Policy Todd Cox, and
Georgetown University Law Center Professor Louis
Michael Seidman * Over 90% of President Trump's
judicial nominees have been white Location: Rayburn
House Office Building, Rm 2253, Washington, DC

<https://cbc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/OfficialCBC>

Other: 10:30 AM Library of Congress inaugurates new
National Ambassador for Young People's Literature –
Library of Congress, in collaboration with the Children's
Book Council and Every Child a Reader, inaugurates the

new National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Ambassador Emeritus Gene Luen Yang participates in the ceremony and delivers comments on his ambassadorship * National Ambassador program was created in 2008 to raise national awareness of 'the importance of young people's literature as it relates to literacy, education, and the betterment of the lives of young people' Location: Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 1st St SE, Washington, DC <http://www.loc.gov/homepage/lchp.html> <https://twitter.com/librarycongress>

12:00 PM CDC telebriefing on new 'Vital Signs' report on sleep-related infant deaths – CDC Director Brenda Fitzgerald telebriefing on new 'Vital Signs' report, on '3,500 sleep-related deaths among U.S. babies: What can healthcare providers and caregivers do to help babies sleep safer?', also featuring Division of Reproductive Health Director Wanda Barfield * A new CDC analysis 'estimates about one in five mothers reported not placing their baby on his or her back to sleep and two in five reported using soft bedding' Location: TBD www.cdc.gov <https://twitter.com/CDCgov>

2:00 PM Wilson Center briefing on 'Security Challenges in East Asia' – 'Security Challenges in East Asia' Wilson Center Asia Program briefing, based on recent high-level meetings in Taipei, Beijing, and Seoul, to address issues including Cross-Taiwan Strait relations after the 19th Party Congress; prospects for U.S.-China relations in the Trump era; the North Korea nuclear issue; and the state of Sino-Korean relations. Speakers include CSIS Pacific Forum President Ralph Costa, Brookings Institution Center for East Asia Policy Studies Nonresident Senior Fellow Evans Revere, Center for Naval Analyses Senior Fellow Michael McDevitt, and National Committee on American Foreign Policy Forum on Asia-Pacific Security Associate Project Director Rorry Daniels Location: Wilson Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/> <https://twitter.com/TheWilsonCenter>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "The stars gathered in Los Angeles for the Golden Globes. These are foreigners who came into Hollywood from their God-forsaken countries to judge us, and for some reason, we allow it. We even celebrate it."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Trump is really mad about [the book 'Fire And Fury'], to the point where he tweeted this weekend to declare himself a genius. ... The one thing that's stable about Donald Trump is his fried chicken intake. Nothing else is stable. But maybe he is a genius. I mean, he did figure out a way to get a six-figure job, where all he has to do is tweet, watch TV, play golf, and eat Big Macs in bed all day."

Jimmy Kimmel: " It's Kim Jong-Un's birthday today, by the way, which is a day of great celebration in North Korea. For the next 24 hours, all the shoelaces they can eat. There was one little hiccup in typical North Korean fashion. When they lit the candles on his birthday cake, it took off sideways and crash-landed in the Sea of Japan."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to Oprah Winfrey's speech at the Golden Globes] "A note of caution: Do we really want to elect another billionaire TV star? Granted, this one is actually a billionaire and actually a TV star."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to the President Trump's response to 'Fire And Fury'] "And we all know geniuses spend most of their time talking about how smart they are. I believe it was Rene Descartes who said, 'I think, therefore, I am, like, really smart.'"

James Corden: "This is our first show of the new year after the holidays. We're very happy to be back. We actually would have come back last week, but marijuana was just legalized here in California, so, you know."

James Corden: "Oprah hasn't said that she decided to make a run for the White House or anything. She said she's not sure she wants to move into a smaller place."

James Corden: "Now the White House actually responded officially. They responded officially to the news that Oprah might run, saying, quote, 'We welcome all comers.' Yeah, which is very easy to remember because it's the exact opposite of their immigration policy."

James Corden: "According to an article from over the weekend, President Trump now starts his work day at 11 a.m., so that he can spend more time in the morning watching TV and tweeting. He won't even show up until 11 o'clock. It's almost as if Trump doesn't want to be President as much as we don't want him to be

President."

Trevor Noah: [Referring to Oprah Winfrey's speech at the Golden Globes] "Feels like this is Oprah 2020. Come on. Whatever you do, though, Oprah, don't use emails!"

Trevor Noah: [Referring to the publication of 'Fire And Fury'] "This weekend President Trump continued his battle against his greatest rival, a book."

Trevor Noah: "Kim Jong-Un, before Trump, was a nut-bag autocrat running around saying he was going to blow up the world, and then Trump shows up, and he's suddenly in a suit saying, 'I've got to try to be a better person. Hey, South Korea, you guys want to talk?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "A lot of people are making New Year's resolutions. Some people are losing weight, while the President's losing his mind."

Jimmy Fallon: "After his mental health was questioned in a new book, President Trump went on Twitter and said that he's a 'very stable genius.' Trump said it was an accident. He was trying to edit his OkCupid bio."

Jimmy Fallon: "Over the weekend, Eric Trump celebrated his 34th birthday at a Mexican restaurant. He and Don Jr. wore sombreros, which backfired when their dad had them deported."

Jimmy Fallon: "Everybody's talking about the big speech Oprah made. And a lot of people are saying that maybe she should run for President. ... But this could be a big story. In fact, two of Oprah's close friends said that she's thinking about running in 2020, while two of Trump's close friends said, 'Please don't refer to us as Trump's close friends.'"

Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The

Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.